

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR
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SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MARCH 10, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING MARCH 10, 1978:

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING SCHEDULED, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, FOR
MR. NKOMO AND MUGABWE TO COME TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND
FOR A MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE?

A: I HAVEN'T SEEN THE SCHEDULE BUT NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

BUT I WILL CHECK THAT FOR YOU AND SEE WHETHER WE CAN'T POST YOU AN ANSWER.

Q: YOU MEAN THE MEETING HASN'T BEEN RESCHEDULED?

A: NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF, BUT AS I SAY, I AM JUST NOT CONFIDENT OF MY INFORMATION. BUT I WILL CHECK THAT AND WE WILL POST IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, IF THERE ARE PLANS OR NOT.

Q: BUT THE SECRETARY WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE THEM?

A: I ASSUME SO. YES.

Q: AND THEY ARE UNABLE TO COME -- WHY? BECAUSE THEY STILL HAVE A SCHEDULE CONFLICT AS THEY DID YESTERDAY? OR --

MR. MEDEIROS: THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF RESCHEDULING THE MEETING AND THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES SUGGESTED BACK AND FORTH. I DON'T KNOW THE STATE -- WHETHER THEY HAVE PINNED IT DOWN YET.

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Q: I AM CONCERNED ABOUT A SATURDAY MEETING SINCE THIS IS FRIDAY, AND WE WON'T HEAR FROM YOU AGAIN.

MR. MEDEIROS: WE WILL TRY TO HAVE IT ON THE 5:00 P.M. SCHEDULE THAT WE NOW RELEASE FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

Q: YOU MEAN ON THE WEEKEND? GOOD, RIGHT.

Q: TOM, ALSO ON AFRICA: PERCY QOBOZO AND SEVERAL OTHER BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE BEEN, OR ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

A: NO, THAT WAS JUST WAVED RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE, JUST BEFORE I CAME IN. WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE SOME SORT OF REACTION LATER ON THIS AFTERNOON.

Q: O.K., ALSO ON AFRICA, YESTERDAY IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CARTER MENTIONED THE UNITED STATES' DESIRE TO HAVE A MEETING BETWEEN THE VARIOUS BLACK PARTIES IN THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS. JUST HOW IS THAT GOING TO WORK -- WHAT DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE IN MIND?

A: I AM NOT SURE OF THE EXACT MODALITIES OF THE THING, BUT I THINK THAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD IN MIND WAS THE NATIONALIST LEADERS, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY, SITTING DOWN TOGETHER AND SEEING WHETHER THEY CAN'T RESOLVE SOME OF THESE DIFFERENCES.

Q: FOR EXAMPLE, LOGISTICALLY IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY WOULD ALL APPEAR TO BE WITHIN EASY DISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS NOW. IS THAT WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND? SOMETHING WITHIN THE PHYSICAL CONFINES OF THE U.N. DURING THIS DEBATE? OR WHAT?

A: I THINK THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY ABOUT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHT NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER ANY SUCH MEETING -- IF IT TAKES PLACE -- WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR NOT. BUT I THINK THAT THERE ARE EFFORTS UNDER WAY SOMEHOW, TO GET THESE PEOPLE TO SIT

DOWN TOGETHER AND TALK.

Q: OR DOES IT GO BACK TO THAT EARLIER QUESTION THAT THIS MAY BE THE SCHEDULING COMPLICATION WITH NKOMO AND MUGABWE, THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO GET THEM ALL DOWN HERE AT THE SAME TIME? IS THAT THE CASE?

A: I'LL CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q: TOM, I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON THAT SPECIFIC QUESTION IF I MAY. THE WASHINGTON STAR REPORTS FROM ZAMBIA THAT THERE ARE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MUGABWE'S ZANU ORGANIZATION AND NKOMO'S ZAPU ORGANIZATION. AND WITHIN ZANU:

THE INFORMATION SECRETARY, RU GA REE GUMBO, AND MANPOWER SECRETARY, MA TU KU HA-MAD SUH-REE-PEE ARE REPORTEDLY TO BE PUT ON TRIAL FOR WHAT IS TERMED "REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY;"

IN NKOMO'S ZAPU ORGANIZATION THERE ARE REPORTED DIVISIONS BETWEEN NKOMO AND A MAN NAMED ALFRED MAN GEH NA DUE TO MAN GEH NA'S RAIDS ON NKOMO'S HEADQUARTERS.

NOW THE QUESTION IS: DOES THE UNITED STATES BELIEVE THAT NO EFFECTIVE SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA CAN BE REACHED UNTIL ALL OF THESE -- SHALL WE SAY "CONFLICTING PARTIES" ARE BROUGHT IN AND SATISFIED?

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AND DO YOU HAVE IN MIND, WHEN YOU HAVE THIS MEETING THAT THE PRESIDENT TALKED ABOUT -- GETTING ALL OF THESE FACTIONS OF FACTIONS INVOLVED, TOM, IS THAT WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEANS BY "ALL PARTIES?" OR WHAT?

A: WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IS GETTING TOGETHER THOSE PARTIES WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION OF RHODESIA OVER THE YEARS, AND THOSE WOULD INCLUDE (AND NOT NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO) THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SALISBURY TALKS AND IN THE TALKS ON MALTA.

Q: YES, I UNDERSTAND. BUT WOULD THAT INCLUDE MR. GUMBO?

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION, TOM. WOULD THAT INCLUDE GUMBO?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: COULD YOU BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE DIPLOMATIC

EFFORTS TO SECURE A CEASE-FIRE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA?

Q: WAIT A MINUTE, COULD I JUST FOLLOW UP WHAT YOU JUST

SAID -- BECAUSE IAN SMITH PARTICIPATED IN THE SALISBURY TALKS.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT HE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS?

A: NO. I SAID YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE, I THINK, THAT WE WERE IN TOUCH DIPLOMATICALLY WITH PARTIES INSIDE RHODESIA, AND THAT DOES INCLUDE MR. SMITH.

BUT AS TO WHETHER MR. SMITH WOULD BE INVITED TO SUCH A UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING, I DON'T KNOW THAT.

WHAT WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS TRYING TO GET THE NATIONALIST LEADERS TO SIT TOGETHER AND TALK, TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN'T MOVE THIS PROCESS A LITTLE FURTHER.

Q: ARE YOU ALSO INCLUDING THE FRONT LINE STATES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF NIGERIA, FOR EXAMPLE?

A: YOU KNOW, THE INVITATION LIST TO SUCH A MEETING (IF SUCH A MEETING EVER TAKES PLACE) IS A MATTER WHICH IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY VARIOUS PEOPLE NOW.

I THINK WHAT THE PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING TO YESTERDAY, IS A MEETING OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS -- BUT OBVIOUSLY,

THE FRONT LINE STATES AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, AND NIGERIA, AND VARIOUS OTHER PEOPLE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH WHAT HAPPENS IN RHODESIA.

Q: CAN YOU CLARIFY WHAT THE PRESIDENT WAS TALKING ABOUT?
MY NOTES ON IT SAY -- I DON'T HAVE THE TEXT -- HE WAS
TALKING ABOUT A CONFERENCE OF ALL THE LEADERS, AND, AS
I UNDERSTOOD IT, THIS WAS INCLUDING SMITH IN SUCH A
CONFERENCE. IS THAT RIGHT OR NOT? YOU ARE NOW TALKING
ABOUT THE AFRICAN LEADERS.

Q: I AM TALKING ABOUT THE AFRICAN LEADERS, AND I AM
SAYING I DON'T KNOW WHETHER MR. SMITH WOULD BE INCLUDED
OR WOULD AGREE TO JOIN SUCH A CONFERENCE, OR WOULD BE
INVITED. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION
IF YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO.

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Q: YES, PLEASE. AND CAN YOU CLARIFY -- YOU JUST REFERRED
TO WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY ABOUT DIPLOMATICALLY IN

CONTACT WITH SMITH. CAN YOU CLARIFY THAT ANY BETTER
TODAY THAN YOU COULD IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS? DO
WE ACTUALLY HAVE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS TALKING TO SMITH NOW?

Q: DID I TAKE THAT QUESTION BEFORE, AND WE STILL DON'T
HAVE AN ANSWER TO IT? WE WILL CHECK IT AGAIN THIS
AFTERNOON.

Q: ON THE HORN OF AFRICA, CAN YOU BRING US UP-TO-DATE ON
THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE A CEASE-FIRE, GOING
THROUGH THE COUNTRIES ONE BY ONE -- THE SOVIET UNION,
CUBA, SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA?

A: NO, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A BLOW-BY-BLOW ON THAT. WE
ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS, WITH THE CUBANS, WITH
SOMALIS AND THE ETHIOPIANS. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH
OUR ALLIES. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS ARAB STATES
WHO HAVE NOTED AN INTEREST IN THIS CONFLICT. BUT I CAN'T
GIVE YOU AN UP-TO-DATE, JUST PRECISELY WHERE THIS STANDS.
AS A COUPLE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY HERE, WE
ARE JUST GETTING STARTED ON THIS PROCESS. WE ARE JUST
GETTING UNDERWAY, AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

Q: SPECIFICALLY, HAS THE SOVIET UNION RESPONDED TO
THE REQUEST THAT THEY SUPPORT THE CEASE-FIRE?

A: I WILL CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q: WHAT WAS THE QUESTION, PLEASE?

A: HAS THE SOVIET UNION RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST TO
SUPPORT A CEASE-FIRE, AND I SAID I WOULD TAKE IT.

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Q: COULD I FOLLOW THAT, PLEASE? THERE IS A STORY ON REUTERS OUT OF ROME, I THINK IT IS, THAT THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE PUT OUT STATEMENTS IN TWO OF THEIR EMBASSIES -- I BELIEVE ROME AND PARIS -- SAYING THAT A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL IS NOT ENOUGH, THAT PRESIDENT SIAD MUST RENOUNCE ALL TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN THE AREA BEFORE THE ETHIOPIANS EVIDENTLY WOULD CONSIDER THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL. HAVE WE HAD SUCH INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM ADDIS, FROM THE ETHIOPIANS ON THAT?

A: I WILL CHECK THAT FOR YOU. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: CAN YOU BROADEN THAT QUESTION ABOUT THE SOVIET REACTION A LITTLE BIT. WHAT WE WERE TOLD YESTERDAY WAS

THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS HAVING

BEEN COMMUNICATED THIS WORD THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE? HAS THERE BEEN ANY SORT OF RESPONSE AT ALL ASIDE FROM THE SPECIFIC ASPECT OF IT THAT ROY ASKED ABOUT? IF SO, WHAT?

A: I WILL TRY TO FIND OUT.

Q: THANK YOU.

Q: COULD YOU ALSO SHED ANY LIGHT ON EFFORTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING TO TALK TO CERTAIN STATES AS POSSIBLE OBSERVERS IN THE CEASE-FIRE? WHAT KINDS OF PLANS ARE UNDERWAY IN THIS DIRECTION?

A: I WILL SEE IF I CAN FIND OUT SOMETHING.

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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THERE THAT YOU ARE BRIEFED ON ON THE STATE OF THE WITHDRAWAL, WHETHER THERE IS STILL CONTINUING FIGHTING IN THE HORN?

A: I MAY, JUST A MINUTE. THIS APPEARS TO BE HIGHLY CONFUSED AT THE MOMENT, BUT THE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE

INDICATE THAT THE ORDER OF THE SOMALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS FORCES TELLING THEM TO WITHDRAW FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY IS BEING OBEYED. AND I BELIEVE THERE WAS A QUESTION FROM MR. BRADSHAW A COUPLE DAYS AGO, WAS THIS JUST THE OGADEN OR WAS IT ALL OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY, AND IT IS OUR INFORMATION THAT THE ORDER WENT OUT TO ALL SOMALIAN FORCES THROUGHOUT ETHIOPIA, NOT LIMITED

ONLY TO THE OGADEN, AND THAT THEY ARE WITHDRAWING FROM ALL OF ETHIOPIA.

Q: IN THAT CONNECTION, DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE WITHDRAWING? SOME OF THEM GOT TO PARTS OF ETHIOPIA BY GOING THROUGH KENYA, WHICH THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTED. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION WHETHER THEY ARE COMING OUT THE SAME WAY? PRESIDENT CARTER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT WE WANTED KENYA'S BORDERS RESPECTED, ALSO.

A: THE PRESIDENT DID SAY YESTERDAY THAT -- STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOMALIA RESPECTING THE BORDERS OF KENYA, AND THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

AS TO THE STATE OF PLAY OF EXACTLY HOW THESE PEOPLE COME OUT, WHETHER THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CROSS THROUGH NORTHERN KENYA, THAT IS A SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE MOMENT. THE KENYANS ARE TALKING WITH VARIOUS PARTIES ABOUT THAT, AND I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO SAY WHAT THE

RESULTS OF THOSE CONSULTATIONS ARE.

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Q: ARE WE ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH THE KENYANS TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR THE PASSAGE OF SOMALI TROOPS THROUGH NORTHEASTERN KENYA ON THE WAY BACK OUT OF ETHIOPIA?

A: I AM NOT SURE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TROOPS ARE INVOLVED AT THIS POINT, OR AN APPROXIMATE NUMBER?

A: NO, WE DON'T. YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION -- OR SOMEONE ASKED THAT QUESTION YESTERDAY. WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW MANY HAVE WITHDRAWN, HOW MANY THERE STILL ARE THERE WITHIN ETHIOPIA. I DON'T HAVE ANY NUMBERS FOR YOU. OBVIOUSLY IT IS CHANGING BECAUSE THEY ARE WITHDRAWING.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES KNOW WHETHER THE SOMALIAN ORDER ACTUALLY IS BEING APPLIED TO SOMALIAN SO-CALLED REGULAR FORCES AND THE SOMALIAN FORCES WHICH ARE CALLED THE "WESTERN SOMALIAN LIBERATION FORCE?"

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ORDER APPLIES TO SOMALIAN REGULAR TROOPS.

Q: NOT TO THE SO-CALLED LIBERATION FORCES?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT TROOPS.

Q: WELL, THE QUESTION IS STILL THE SAME, THEN. DOES THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT THE DISTINCTION?

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

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Q: YOU SAY THAT THERE IS A WITHDRAWAL AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE IN FACT WITHDRAWING THEIR MEN. IS THERE ALSO A CEASE-FIRE? ARE THEY WITHDRAWING UNDER FIRE? WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND?

A: THAT I CAN'T ANSWER. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. I SAID THAT IT WAS CONFUSED. I IMAGINE, ONE WOULD ASSUME IT IS A LITTLE BIT OF BOTH. BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, I WILL.

Q: TOM, IN LIGHT OF ALL THESE FAST DEVELOPMENTS, HAVE THE SOVIETS REAFFIRMED THEIR PLEDGE TO RESTRAIN ANY INVASION OF SOMALIA? OR, DO WE JUST ASSUME THAT THE OLD PROMISE STANDS?

A: I DON'T KNOW, BARRY. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT. IF YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, I WILL.

Q: DO YOU KNOW, ARE CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS STILL ARRIVING IN ADDIS, AND WHAT IS THE LATEST FIGURE?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE ANY NEW FIGURES ON CUBAN FORCES IN ETHIOPIA.

Q: ABOUT A WEEK AGO, I THINK THE FIGURE WAS 11,000, AND THEY WERE ARRIVING AT A RATE OF A FEW HUNDRED A DAY. I AM JUST WONDERING, DOES THIS MEAN WE ARE UP TO 13 - 14 THOUSAND NOW?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY NEW FIGURES FOR YOU, ROY, I AM SORRY.

Q: IT WAS STATED HERE AT THE BRIEFING LAST NIGHT THAT THE FIRST SIGN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE LOOKING FOR WAS WHETHER THERE WAS A CESSATION OF THE REINFORCEMENTS. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE YET OF ANY CESSATION OF THE REINFORCEMENTS?

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A: NOW, MURREY, THAT WAS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. I HAVE NOT NOTED IN THE PAST 12 HOURS ANY -- I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY INFORMATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT TREND ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IN THE LAST 12 HOURS ON CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS.

Q: WHAT I WAS ASKING WAS MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT. IT WAS WHETHER THERE IS, IN FACT, ANY KNOWLEDGE, ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES AS YET AS TO WHETHER THE AIR TRAFFIC WHICH WOULD BE BRINGING REINFORCEMENTS IN HAS AS YET ABATED. I RECOGNIZE THIS WOULD BE A PROLONGED PROCESS OF DETERMINATION.

A: NOT ACCORDING TO ANY INFORMATION I HAVE SEEN, AND I HAVE SEEN SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THIS AREA.

Q: WHAT IS THAT INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE?

A: WAIT. BARRY?

Q: WELL, IT IS IMPLICIT HERE, BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE EXPLICIT. IS THIS A VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OR ARE THEY RETREATING, FOR THE MOST PART?

A: I THINK I WAS ASKED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY, AND I THINK IT WAS ALSO ADDRESSED BY SOME SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE LAST NIGHT.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AN ORDER OF THE SOMALIAN GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS, AN ORDER TO THEIR ARMY COMMANDERS TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS. NOW, OBVIOUSLY, THAT PLAYS A PART. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IS CONFUSED. THERE MAY BE SOME UNCLASSIFIED

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FIGHTING GOING ON, THAT THEY ARE RETREATING UNDER ATTACK.

Q: THE REASON I ASKED, I THOUGHT MAYBE I MISHEARD. I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU SAY AT SOME POINT ALONG THIS BRIEFING THAT THERE WAS AN ORDERLY RETREAT.

A: NO. AN ORDER TO WITHDRAW.

Q: OH, I THOUGHT YOU HAD SOME OBSERVATION ABOUT HOW THEY ARE MOVING OUT.

A: NO. I WAS TALKING ABOUT AN ORDER OF THE SOMALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOMALIA.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION OF WHETHER THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE CEASED THEIR COUNTER OFFENSIVE? HAVE YOU GOT ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER THEY HAVE CEASED THEIR COUNTEROFFENSIVE OPERATION?

A: I DON'T HAVE A SITUATION REPORT ON WHAT IS GOING ON ON THE GROUND IN THE HORN. I AM SORRY, I JUST DON'T.

Q: YOU SAID YOU HAD SEEN SOME INFORMATION REGARDING THE

STATUS OF CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS, I BELIEVE IN ANSWER TO MURREY'S QUESTION.

A: NO.

Q: HAVE YOU?

A: I SAID THAT I HAD NOT SEEN ANY INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO WHAT HAS GONE ON IN THE LAST 12 HOURS SINCE THIS WAS ANNOUNCED ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT TREND ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IN LEVELS OF CUBAN REINFORCEMENTS.

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Q: CAN YOU SAY WHAT THE LEVEL OF CONTACT HAS BEEN BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA REGARDING CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA?

A: AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA, AND WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS WITH THE CUBANS.

Q: CAN YOU SAY WHEN THE UNITED STATES WENT TO THE CUBANS? DID THEY GO TO THEM AT THE SAME TIME AS THE RUSSIANS?

A: I AM NOT EXACTLY SURE WHEN WE WENT TO THEM.

Q: COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?

A: I WILL TRY.

Q: ALSO ON THE HORN, WHEN DOES THE UNITED STATES PLAN TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR BACK TO ADDIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q: IS THAT ALSO ONE OF THE NEXT STEPS?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHEN WE WILL SEND AN AMBASSADOR BACK TO ADDIS ABABA, OR WHETHER THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A SIGNAL. I THINK WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THAT ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.

Q: HAS THE ETHIOPIAN CHARGE BEEN IN THE DEPARTMENT IN THE LAST 48 HOURS?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

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Q: YOU SAID SOMETHING EARLIER THAT PUZZLED ME A BIT. YOU SAID SOMALI WAS -- EVIDENTLY THE ORDER HAD GONE OUT AND WAS BEING OBSERVED IN PLACES OTHER THAN THE OGADEN. WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?

A: THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH AROSE A COUPLE DAYS AGO AT THE BRIEFING. THE WHOLE AREA UNDER CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA HAS GENERALLY GENERICALLY BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE OGADEN, BUT MR. BRADSHAW POINTS OUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN IN DISPUTE WHICH ARE NOT TECHNICALLY CALLED THE OGADEN.

Q: BUT NO EVIDENCE OF SOMALI TROOPS IN THERE.

Q: OH, YES.

A: AND WHAT I AM TRYING TO MAKE PLAIN HERE, GRAHAM, IS THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ALL AREAS IN ETHIOPIA, NOT ONLY THE OGADEN PROVINCE BUT OTHER AREAS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER DISPUTE. THERE IS ALSO A GENERAL WITHDRAWAL UNDERWAY IN THOSE NON-OGADEN PARTS OF ETHIOPIA.

Q: A WASHINGTON POST STORY REPORTS THIS MORNING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EXPRESSION TO A REPORTER THAT THE BRITISH IN HIS TERM MIGHT RUN OUT OF THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND LEAVE US WITH THIRTY YEARS OF TROUBLE THE WAY THEY DID IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS NOW BEEN DESCRIBED BY UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AS "VERY UNFORTUNATE, BUT NOT SERIOUS."

I WAS JUST WONDERING DOES THE SECRETARY AGREE WITH THIS CHARACTERIZATION OR DOES HE FEEL THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT, WHICH WAS SO RAPIDLY RETRACTED, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WAS UNIMPORTANT?

A: I ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY AND I CHARACTERIZED IT AND I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON IT.
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Q: WELL, IS IT TRUE THAT THE SECRETARY DID SPEAK WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG?

A: YOU JUST HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE TRANSCRIPT, LES. I AM SORRY.

Q: TOM, SENATORS SPARKMAN, STONE, CASE AND JAVITS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ASKING THAT THE SALISBURY ACCORD IN THEIR WORDS SHOULD HAVE THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND NOT BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND. BUT THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HAS ASKED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO CONDEMN IT.

MY QUESTION IS: WHICH ONE OF THESE TWO OBVIOUSLY CON-

FLICTING CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS DOES THE SECRETARY FAVOR?

A: WHAT THE SECRETARY FAVORS HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR ON MANY

OCCASIONS AND THE SECRETARY DOES NOT LIMIT HIS OPTIONS TO
VARIOUS RESOLUTIONS WHICH MAY BE INTRODUCED WITHOUT THE
FORCE OF LAW UPON CAPITOL HILL.

NOW, IF YOU WANT ME TO RING THE CHANGES AND TAKE A LOT OF
TIME AND EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHERE THE SECRETARY STANDS AND
THE STATE DEPARTMENT STANDS ON THE QUESTION OF THE INTER-
NAL SETTLEMENT, I WILL DO THAT AGAIN.

Q: NO. NO. NO.

A: BUT I SUGGEST YOU GO BACK TO THE TRANSCRIPT AND LOOK
AT IT.

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Q: WAIT A MINUTE, TOM.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW: THE SECRETARY HAS NOT CONDEMNED THE
RESOLUTION. I MEAN THE SALISBURY ACCORD. HAS HE? HAS
HE CONDEMNED IT OR NOT?

A: IF YOU WANT THE SECRETARY'S POSITION ON THE SALISBURY
ARRANGEMENTS, I SUGGEST YOU GO BACK AND LOOK AT THE TRAN-
SCRIPTS.

Q: YOU WOULDN'T CALL IT A CONDEMNATION, IN OTHER WORDS?
IS THAT TRUE, TOM?

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN ZAIRE THAT
NEARLY 100 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR PLOTTING AGAINST
MOBUTU?

A: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED
AND TRIED ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN LAW AND WE HAVE NO REASON
TO DOUBT THAT; THE DECISIONS THAT THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT
HAS MADE TO US.

Q: YOU ARE NOT MAKING REPRESENTATIONS THEN TO THE ZAIRIAN
GOVERNMENT?

A: ON ANOTHER MATTER WE HAVE.

THERE WAS APPARENTLY AN ALLEGATION OR A REFERENCE IN TESTI-
MONY THAT AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT HAD HAD SOME INVOLVEMENT
WITH THIS ALLEGED PLOT AND I WOULD LIKE TO STATE CATEGORI-
CALLY THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOR ANY
U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN

ANY PLOT OR OTHER ACTIVITY DIRECTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT
OF ZAIRE OR OFFICIALS OF THAT GOVERNMENT. NO AMERICAN
DIPLOMAT HAS PARTICIPATED AT ANY TIME IN ANY MEETING SUCH

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AS WAS DESCRIBED IN THE COURT TESTIMONY.

NOW, WITH THAT BACKGROUND, IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION OF
HAVE WE MADE ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
ZAIRE, YES, WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR ASSURANCES OF NON-INVOLVE-
MENT TO HIGH LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS RECENTLY.

Q: AFTER IT APPEARED IN THE COURT TESTIMONY?

A: I WOULD ASSUME SO, YES.

Q: IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE REPORTS FROM THE GROUP OF
ZAIRIANS LIVING IN BELGIUM THAT MOBUTU IS SENDING HIS
TROOPS OUT AND ATTACKING TOWNSPEOPLE SORT OF TO ENFORCE
WHAT THEY SAY IS HIS DICTATORSHIP IN ZAIRE?

A: I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY REPORTS ALONG THOSE LINES.

Q: THEY WERE IN THE FBI'S REPORTS.

A: I AM SORRY. I JUST HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

Q: WHO IS THIS DIPLOMAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE THE NAME FOR YOU.

Q: IS HE A SENIOR RANKING DIPLOMAT?

A: I REALLY DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q: THANK YOU. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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